

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of delivering purchase information comprising:
2 storing purchase information for a purchase of a user in a set top box, wherein the
3 set top box is configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner; and
5 enable a presentation device connected to the set top box to display the
6 broadcast signals;
7 automatically obtaining a connection to the Internet using a communication
8 module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection, wherein the
9 communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establishing a secure electronic connection with a server through the connection to
11 the Internet; and
12 transmitting the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information relates to a pay
2 per view program.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information relates to an
2 electronic commerce transaction.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the presentation device is a television.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 smart card.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 renewable security module.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically obtaining a connection
2 comprises:
3 receiving a local phone number in the set top box;
4 automatically dialing the local phone number, without a user requesting a
5 connection, using the communication module, wherein the communication module is a
6 modem; and
7 establishing a connection to the Internet through a computer that answers the
8 dialed local phone number.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the local phone number is associated with
2 an Internet service provider.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically obtaining a connection
2 comprises:
3 determining if an Internet connection is currently established;
4 if an Internet connection is currently established, automatically obtaining a new
5 transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the
6 communication module using the established Internet connection.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the secure electronic connection utilizes a
2 secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the server is a broadcast satellite
2 operator's Internet server.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving additional
2 information in the set top box through the secure electronic connection.

1 13. A method of delivering purchase information comprising:
2 storing purchase information for a purchase of a user in a set top box, wherein the
3 set top box is configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner; and
5 enable a presentation device connected to the set top box to display the
6 broadcast signals;
7 automatically obtaining a connection to a data paging network using a
8 communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection,
9 wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establishing a secure electronic connection with a server through the connection to
11 the data paging network; and
12 transmitting the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 14. A system for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 purchase information for a purchase of a user;
3 a set top box configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner;
5 enable a presentation device to display the broadcast signals;
6 store the purchase information;
7 automatically obtain a connection to the Internet using a communication
8 module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection, wherein the
9 communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establish a secure electronic connection with a server through the
11 connection to the Internet; and
12 transmit the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information relates to a pay
2 per view program.

1 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information relates to an
2 electronic commerce transaction.

1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the presentation device is a television.

1 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 smart card.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 renewable security module.

1 20. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is configured to
2 automatically obtain a connection by:
3 receiving a local phone number in the set top box;
4 automatically dialing the local phone number, without a user requesting a
5 connection, using the communication module, wherein the communication module is a
6 modem; and
7 establishing a connection to the Internet through a computer that answers the
8 dialed local phone number.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the local phone number is associated with
2 an Internet service provider.

1 22. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is configured to
2 automatically obtain a connection by:
3 determining if an Internet connection is currently established;
4 if the Internet connection is currently established, automatically obtaining a new
5 transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the
6 communication module using the established Internet connection.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the secure electronic connection utilizes a
2 secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 24. The system of claim 14, wherein the server is a broadcast satellite
2 operator's Internet server.

1 25. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is further configured to
2 receive additional information through the secure electronic connection.

1 26. A system for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 purchase information for a purchase of a user;
3 a set top box configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner;
5 enable a presentation device to display the broadcast signals;
6 store the purchase information;
7 automatically obtain a connection to a data paging network using a
8 communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establish a secure electronic connection with a server through the
11 connection to the data paging network; and
12 transmit the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 27. An article of manufacture for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 means for a set top box connectable to a presentation device to receive broadcast
3 signals through a tuner;
4 means for the set top box to enable the presentation device to display the
5 broadcast signals;
6 means for the set top box to store purchase information for a purchase of a user;
7 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a connection to the Internet
8 using a communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 means for the set top box to establish a secure electronic connection with a server
11 through the connection to the Internet; and
12 means for the set top box to transmit the purchase information from the set top
13 box through the secure electronic connection to the server.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 relates to a pay per view program.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 relates to an electronic commerce transaction.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the presentation device is
2 a television.

1 31. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 is stored in a smart card.

1 32. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 is stored in a renewable security module.

1 33. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the means for
2 automatically obtaining a connection comprises:

3 means for the set top box to receive a local phone number in the set top box;

4 means for the set top box to automatically dial the local phone number, without a
5 user requesting a connection, using the communication module, wherein the
6 communication module is a modem; and

7 means for the set top box to establish a connection to the Internet through a
8 computer that answers the dialed local phone number.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein the local phone number is
2 associated with an Internet service provider.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the means for the set top
2 box to automatically obtain a connection comprises:

3 means for the set top box to determine if an Internet connection is currently
4 established;

5 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a new transmission control
6 protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the communication module using
7 the established Internet connection if an Internet connection is currently established.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the secure electronic
2 connection utilizes a secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the server is a broadcast
2 satellite operator's Internet server.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 27, further comprising means for
2 receiving additional information through the secure electronic connection.

1 39. An article of manufacture for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 means for a set top box connectable to a presentation device to receive broadcast
3 signals through a tuner;
4 means for the set top box to enable the presentation device to display the
5 broadcast signals;
6 means for the set top box to store purchase information for a purchase of a user;
7 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a connection to a data paging
8 network using a communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 means for the set top box to establish a secure electronic connection with a server
11 through the connection to the data paging network; and
12 means for the set top box to transmit the purchase information from the set top
13 box through the secure electronic connection to the server.